

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the telephone interview during which a Proposed Amendment of February 4, 2004, in respect of claim 17 was discussed and modified into the above form for agreement of allowance, claim 17 above now also including the word "nearly" for more exact correspondence with the specification.

However, claim 18 of the Proposed Amendment of February 4, 2004, was not allowed, based on the Examiner's additional combination into a rejection of the previously cited Rieschick U.S. Patent 844,750. The Examiner was of the opinion that such a rejection could not be overcome with a P/n ratio in claim 18, which recites locking recesses, as with claim 17, which recites locking projections, because the specification only describes the P/n ratio for locking projections.

This is literally true. However, comparison of original Figs. 29 and 30, which show the claimed projections, with Figs 27 and 28, which show the claimed recesses, confirms that the recesses are mirror images of the projections. Mirror operation should then have been expected by those of ordinary skill without mirror description.

Indeed, while failing to dot the "i" of identity, the specification also provides mirror descriptions of the projection and recess embodiments of claims 17 and 18 as above.

Please compare the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 32, of the specification:

Fig 30  
not  
to  
scale

To achieve the object of the third aspect of the present invention, the present invention provides a self-locking bolt having a head having a locking function, and a threaded part extending from the head and provided with an external thread of a pitch  $P$ ; wherein  $n$  locking projections are formed at equal angular intervals on the bearing surface of the head, the height of each locking projection from the bearing surface of the head increases gradually in a direction opposite a fastening direction in which the bolt is rotated for fastening to a maximum height, an edge is formed in a highest portion of the locking projection at the maximum height, and the maximum height of the edge of the locking projection from the bearing surface of the head is nearly equal to or less than  $P/n$ ,

with the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 30:

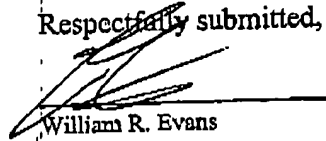
Another self-locking bolt according to the present invention has a head having a locking function and a threaded part extending from the head and provided with an external thread of a pitch  $P$ .  $N$  locking recesses are formed at equal angular intervals in the bearing surface of the head. The depth of each locking recess from the bearing surface of the head decreases gradually in a direction opposite a fastening direction in which the bolt is rotated for fastening to a minimum depth, and an edge is formed at the joint of an end wall of the locking recess at a position at the maximum depth and the bearing surface of the head.

A similar comparison can be made of the paragraphs beginning on page 32 that are amended above. Even Plutarch did not require exact repetition to call lives parallel with disclosure of one disclosing the other. Those of ordinary skill in the art would not require more, but less, because their ordinary skill would see the parallels twice in the specification but not invent any obstacles.

Because both the original drawing and the specification show mirror arrangement of the recesses and projections, corresponding claiming should be possible for allowance of claim 18 on the same basis that claim 17 is already indicated allowable.

The undersigned will call to discuss this.

Respectfully submitted,



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